UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
LIMITED

E/ECA/PSD.3/45/Add.1
5 March, 1984

Original : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers

Addis Ababa, 5 - 14 March 1984

POPULATION INFORMATION NETWORK FOR AFRICA (POPIN-AFRICA) INVENTORY OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS

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REPORT OF THE SECOND CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE ECA POPULATION INFORMATION NETWORK FOR AFRICA (POPIN-AFRICA) New York, 1 - 3 November 1983

I. Introduction

1. Following upon the first POPIN-AFRICA Consultative Meeting held in Addis Ababa from June 14th to 16th 1982, the ECA Population Division submitted to the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), proposals for the funding of a regional population information network for Africa. With financial support from the UNFPA a second Consultative Meeting was held in New York in order to discuss, clarify and make suggestions for the implementation of a Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-AFRICA).

2. The Consultative Meeting was organized by the ECA Population Division in close collaboration and with the assistance of the UN Regional Commission Liaison Office, POPIN, UN PoPulation Division and UNFPA. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD); Johns Hopkins University; Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS); Sahel Institute; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); United Nations Population Division; United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, Population Branch; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA); Columbia University, Center for Population and Family Health Information Program; International Press Service (IPS); and Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC).

II. Conclusion and decisions

3. Two principles were to be considered : (i) participants were requested to decide about the division of work, keeping in mind not to overburden any one centre; (ii) the aim should be to find economical solutions for implementing the POPIN-Africa project. Decisions were made in the following areas.

A. Coverage

4. Three criteria were considered for deciding about the division of work with regard to the selection of documents and information to be contributed to POPIN-Africa : (i) geographical distribution; (ii) linguistic groups; and (iii) subject scope in the population field. The participants decided that Population Information and Documentation System of Africa (PIDSA) at RIPS would select documents and information on anglophone countries in Africa, and IFORD on francophone countries, except the seven Sahel countries which were served by the Sahel Institute. The problem of the Gambia would be worked out between the Sahel Institute and RIPS, and details of the arrangements would be submitted to the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee. CDC would be responsible for selecting and analyzing documents and information in Arabic literature for the POPIN-Africa file.

B. Subject scope

5. Participants discussed the issues related to the subject scope within which documents and information should be collected. After discussion, it was decided that the work would not be divided according to the subject scope. However, the subject scope categories developed by the POPIN Co-ordinating Unit and Population Information and Documentation System of Africa (PIDSA) would be a basis for the development of a definition of the scope as it applies to POPIN-Africa (see POPIN subject categories in Annex). This should be considered as one of the first tasks to be undertaken by POPIN-Africa when established.

C. Dissemination

6. The participants agreed that dissemination was an important element, among others,of this project. Thus, it was decided that ECA would take steps and a leading role in channelling information to users including governments and media, while the centres would channel information to scientific and educational communities.

D. POPIN-Africa Index

7. Three criteria were determined and considered in deciding about this output : (i) rationalization; (ii) efficiency; and (iii) meeting the needs of users. Based on these criteria, the participants decided that there would be one index for the whole continent. The sub-regional centres would select, analyze documents, and prepare worksheets which would be sent to the POPIN-Africa Co-ordinating Unit at ECA for processing and for producing the POPIN-Africa Index.

E. Software Interface

8. The participants considered and diccussed the problems which will arise from compatibility between Wang and Hewlett Packard (HP) and decided that a software interface should be developed between Wang and HP, and adequate budgetary provisions made to cover this work.

F. Training

9. It was decided that training in population information and documentation would be promoted and co-ordinated by ECA.

G. Evaluation

10. The meeting urged that the evaluation measures for POPIN-Africa should be built into the proposal and put into effect from the onset of its implementation. In other words, POPIN-Africa should adopt a continuous assessment of its processes. In evaluating the project, the participants emphasized their concern for the success of POPIN-Africa. They agreed that, in addition to the progress report required by UNFPA every six months, self-evaluation should be performed regularly by the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee. Moreover, POPIN-Africa should also be evaluated by outsiders.

H. Budget provisions

11. United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has approved the budget for the functioning of POPIN-Africa Co-ordinating Unit at ECA. The other donors, i.e. Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and Johns Hopkins University, are discussing and considering funding the subregional centres.

ANNEX I

POPIN - SUBJECT CATEGORIES

1. POPULATION THEORY
   - a. Generalizations
   - b. Interrelations with other disciplines
2. METHODS OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
   - a. Estimation methods
   - b. Projection methods
   - c. Modelling
   - d. Other related methods for research and analysis
3. BASIC DATA COLLECTION
   - a. Census
   - b. Surveys
   - c. Registration systems and vital statistics
   - d. Other related statistics
4. POPULATION LEVELS AND TRENDS
   - a. Population size
   - b. Population growth
   - c. Population estimates and projections
   - d. Subnational population estimates and projections
5. AGE AND SEX
   - a. Determinants of age-sex structure
   - b. Demographic implication of age-sex structure and patterns
   - c. Economic-social implications of age-sex structure
   - d. Political implications of age-sex structure
   - e. Specific projects on children, youth and the aged

6. NUPTIALITY

a. Marriage patterns : age at marriage, proportion married, types of unions, co-habitation, etc.

b. Socio-economic conditions and programmes affecting marriage patterns

c. Divorce, separations, re-marriage and widowhood

d. Policies affecting patterns of marriage and divorce

7. FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

a. Size, structure and type of families and households

b. Trends in the size and structure

c. Factors affecting the number, size and structure of families and households

d. Patterns and differentials in headship

e. The life cycle of the family

8. FERTILITY

a. Levels patterns and trends of fertility

b. Physiological factors affecting fertility

c. Cultural and social factors affecting fertility; status of women, etc.

d. Demographic factors affecting fertility

e. Economic factors affecting fertility

f. Fertility differentials

g. Law, policies and measures affecting fertility

9. MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

a. Levels and trends of mortality

b. Sex and age pattern of mortality

c. Foetal, infant and child mortality

d. Causes of death

e. Factors affecting mortality levels and trends

f. Mortality differentials

g. Law, policies and programmes affecting parental, child and community health.

10. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

a. Levels, trends and patterns of subnational population
b. Patterns of growth among cities
c. Socio-economic factors affecting subnational population, including urbanization
d. Population distribution policies

11. INTERNAL MIGRATION

a. Levels, trends, types and patterns of internal migration
b. Internal migration differentials : age, sex, status, etc.
c. Factors affecting internal migration
d. Socio-economic and demographic consequences of internal migration
e. Policies and measures affecting internal migration

12. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

a. Levels, trends and patterns of international migration
b. Factors affecting international migration
c. Socio-economic consequences of international migration
d. Illegal/"undocumented"migration
e. The migration of labour and skilled persons
f. Refugees
g. Policies and measures on international migration
h. Human rights issues in international migration

13. TRAINING, TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN DEMOGRAPHY

a. Training and teaching materials in formal demography
b. Training and teaching programmes

14. POPULATION LEGISLATIONS AND POLICIES

a. Population and political factors
b. Population policies and its relation to other policies
c. Law and policies on population quality
d. Law and policies on abortion and sterilization
e. Law and policies on minors and unmarried women
f. Law and policies on family planning availability

15. POPULATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT

a. Population and mineral resources
b. Population and energy
c. Population and desertification
d. Population and deforestation
e. Population and arable land and land reform
f. Population and agricultural and industrial water supply
g. Population and water pollution
h. Population and air pollution
i. Population and the urban environment

16. POPULATION AND FOOD

a. Population and food requirement
b. Food supplies and levels of nutrition
c. Agricultural land and productivity
d. Agricultural labour, mechanization and productivity
e. Projections of production, technology and food demand

17. THE EFFECTS OF POPULATION ON HOUSING

a. Population and housing needs
b. Population and housing conditions
c. Population and water supplies
d. Population and sewage systems

18. POPULATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

a. Levels and trends of the labour force
b. Occupational structure
c. Unemployment and under re-employment
d. Demographic factors in labour force size and growth
e. Female labour
f. Child labour
g. Employment of the aged

19. DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

a. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for awareness of population issues and for motivation of family planning
b. Population education in schools
c. Population effects on public education
d. Out-of-school population education
e. Sex and family life education

20. POPULATION AND OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTERRELATIONS

a. Ethnic characteristics
b. Religious beliefs and their influence on population matters
c. Values and cost of children
d. Population effects on other public utilities
e. Equitable income distribution
f. The disadvantaged : handicapped, poorest of poor, etc.

21. THE INTEGRATION OF POPULATION FACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

a. Population and development strategies and plans
b. Population and sectoral and regional development planning

22. FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMMES, ORGANIZATION AND SERVICES

a. Administrative aspects of family planning programmes
b. Family planning and maternal and child health (MCH)
c. Community-based delivery programmes
d. Training of paramedical
e. Family planning integrated with other development programmes
f. Funding and international assistance and co-operation

23. CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS AND RESEARCH IN CONTRACEPTION

a. General medical and surgical aspects of contraception
b. Diseases and disorders related to human reproduction and fecundity
c. Male contraception
d. Female contraception
e. Other methods and researches in contraception
f. Production and marketing of contraceptive devices

24. FAMILY PLANNING EVALUATION

a. Sources of data-surveys (KAP, WFS, CPS) and service statistics

b. Methodologies and demographic evaluation

c. Administrative evaluation : programme experience and impact; teaching materials and service delivery

25. POPULATION INFORMATION

a. Bibliographies and directories

b. Information, documentation and library science standards, manuals and handbooks

c. Information programmes and projects

d. Information on international assistance and co-operation on population matters, excluding family planning.